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**From:** Ellsworth, Alan [alan\_ellsworth@nps.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/13/2016 11:35:50 PM  
**To:** McKim, Krista [mckim.krista@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Melodia, Craig [melodia.craig@epa.gov]; Pierard, Kevin [pierard.kevin@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Minntac

Thank you for your time and the additional background Krista. I will continue working with Voyageurs NP to ensure they have the support they need.

My contact information is provided below. Please do let me know if you have additional information on this or other issues in your region that may be affecting national park resources.

On Tue, Dec 13, 2016 at 1:29 PM, McKim, Krista <mckim.krista@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Alan,

Thanks for the call today and your interest in this issue. Attached is the letter that I mentioned during the call. I've also attached a report that was released recently by the 1854 Treaty Authority that discusses water quality and wild rice surveys in the receiving waters to the east of the tailings basin. This is the drainage that also discharges to Voyagers.

If you would like to copy EPA on your comments, please copy me and Kevin Pierard ([Pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:Pierard.kevin@epa.gov)).

Here is a link to the public notice document that says how to submit comments. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/Public%20Notice%20-%20MN0057207%20-%202016.pdf>

The email address to use is: [erik.smith@state.mn.us](mailto:erik.smith@state.mn.us)

As I think of more information that may be useful to you I'll pass it along. Also, if you have any questions don't hesitate to call.

Thanks!

Krista

Krista McKim, P.E.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA, Region 5

312.353.8270

[McKim.Krista@epa.gov](mailto:McKim.Krista@epa.gov)

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**From:** McKim, Krista  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2016 2:05 PM  
**To:** '[alan\\_ellsworth@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ellsworth@nps.gov)' <[alan\\_ellsworth@nps.gov](mailto:alan_ellsworth@nps.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Minntac

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**From:** McKim, Krista  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2016 10:42 AM  
**To:** '[michael\\_ward@nps.gov](mailto:michael_ward@nps.gov)' <[michael\\_ward@nps.gov](mailto:michael_ward@nps.gov)>; '[forrest\\_harvey@nps.gov](mailto:forrest_harvey@nps.gov)' <[forrest\\_harvey@nps.gov](mailto:forrest_harvey@nps.gov)>; '[don\\_shepard@nps.gov](mailto:don_shepard@nps.gov)' <[don\\_shepard@nps.gov](mailto:don_shepard@nps.gov)>; '[peter\\_fasbender@fws.gov](mailto:peter_fasbender@fws.gov)' <[peter\\_fasbender@fws.gov](mailto:peter_fasbender@fws.gov)>; '[nicholas\\_chevance@nps.gov](mailto:nicholas_chevance@nps.gov)' <[nicholas\\_chevance@nps.gov](mailto:nicholas_chevance@nps.gov)>; '[charles\\_wooley@fws.gov](mailto:charles_wooley@fws.gov)' <[charles\\_wooley@fws.gov](mailto:charles_wooley@fws.gov)>; '[amy\\_mcgovern@fws.gov](mailto:amy_mcgovern@fws.gov)' <[amy\\_mcgovern@fws.gov](mailto:amy_mcgovern@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pierard, Kevin <[pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:pierard.kevin@epa.gov)>; Ireland, Scott <[ireland.scott@epa.gov](mailto:ireland.scott@epa.gov)>; Ackerman, Mark <[ackerman.mark@epa.gov](mailto:ackerman.mark@epa.gov)>; Melodia, Craig <[melodia.craig@epa.gov](mailto:melodia.craig@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Minntac

Hello!

You may recall that we had some conversations back in late 2014 and then again in 2015 regarding the US Steel-Minntac NPDES permit. If you recall, this NPDES permit is for the 8,700 acre tailings basin discharges located in the headwaters of the Sand and Dark Rivers. (see attached map)

Well, as you may or may not have heard, a draft NPDES permit for this site is currently on public notice. MPCA is accepting comments until December 16<sup>th</sup>.

I've attached the draft permit and fact sheet here, and the documents are also available on MPCA's website: at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/public-notice>.

As a summary, this will be the first time MPCA has reissued this permit. The permit was originally issued in 1987, and the facility has been operating on an expired permit since 1992. The facility discharges via seepages and direct surface discharges to surface waters in large quantities. The quality of the discharge is such that it contains elevated levels of sulfate, TDS, conductivity, and is otherwise not well characterized. EPA has many concerns with how the permit has been drafted.

We were wondering if any of you were aware of and/or interested in commenting on the permit. Also, if you would like to discuss this further, we are willing to set up a conference call, or you can contact me directly at this email and the phone number below.

Sincerely,

Krista

Krista McKim, P.E.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA, Region 5

312.353.8270

[McKim.Krista@epa.gov](mailto:McKim.Krista@epa.gov)

**From:** Kalstad, Dixie [[mailto:dixie\\_kalstad@nps.gov](mailto:dixie_kalstad@nps.gov)]

**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 2:14 PM

**To:** Ireland, Scott; To: [michael\\_ward@nps.gov](mailto:michael_ward@nps.gov); [forrest\\_harvey@nps.gov](mailto:forrest_harvey@nps.gov); [don\\_shepard@nps.gov](mailto:don_shepard@nps.gov); [peter\\_fasbender@fws.gov](mailto:peter_fasbender@fws.gov); [nicholas\\_chevance@nps.gov](mailto:nicholas_chevance@nps.gov); Cc: Charlie Wooley; McGovern, Amy; McGovern, Amy; Pierard, Kevin; Newport, Robert; McKim, Krista; [mrve@fs.fed.us](mailto:mrve@fs.fed.us); [jtbutcher@fs.fed.us](mailto:jtbutcher@fs.fed.us); [ratrudell@fs.fed.us](mailto:ratrudell@fs.fed.us); Alan Ellsworth; Kerensa King; Steinbauer, Gary

**Subject:** Fwd: Minntac

A teleconference has been scheduled for October 5 from 1-2 p.m. Central Time. The call in number is 866.745.8916; 4939939# for those of you who are able to join the meeting.

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Dixie Kalstad  
Superintendent's Secretary

## Voyageurs National Park

360 Highway 11 East  
International Falls, MN 56649

Office Phone: 218-283-6608



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ireland, Scott** <[ireland.scott@epa.gov](mailto:ireland.scott@epa.gov)>

Date: Mon, Sep 14, 2015 at 11:08 AM

Subject: Re: Minntac

To: "michael\_ward@nps.gov" <[michael\\_ward@nps.gov](mailto:michael_ward@nps.gov)>, "forrest\_harvey@nps.gov" <[forrest\\_harvey@nps.gov](mailto:forrest_harvey@nps.gov)>, "don\_shepard@nps.gov" <[don\\_shepard@nps.gov](mailto:don_shepard@nps.gov)>, "peter\_fasbender@fws.gov" <[peter\\_fasbender@fws.gov](mailto:peter_fasbender@fws.gov)>, "nicholas\_chevance@nps.gov" <[nicholas\\_chevance@nps.gov](mailto:nicholas_chevance@nps.gov)>

Cc: Charlie Wooley <[charles\\_wooley@fws.gov](mailto:charles_wooley@fws.gov)>, "McGovern, Amy" <[amy\\_mcgovern@fws.gov](mailto:amy_mcgovern@fws.gov)>, "McGovern, Amy" <[McGovern.Amy@epa.gov](mailto:McGovern.Amy@epa.gov)>, "Pierard, Kevin" <[pierard.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:pierard.kevin@epa.gov)>, "Newport, Robert" <[newport.bob@epa.gov](mailto:newport.bob@epa.gov)>, "McKim, Krista" <[mckim.krista@epa.gov](mailto:mckim.krista@epa.gov)>

Greetings all!

I sent you a message back in December of last year regarding something we at EPA in Region 5 (Chicago) wanted to bring to your attention. There is a proposal from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) permit to U. S. Steel Corp. (USS) for operation of its Minntac tailings basin. The proposed discharge is upstream of federal lands. I have attached a map of the tailings basin and the downstream drainage, as well as the draft permit and fact sheet.

We would like to discuss this with you at your respective Agencies earliest convenience (by the end of September at the latest). Please let me know if there is someone else I should be coordinating with in your Agency and/or let me know who a point of contact to set up a conference call for us to discuss this in further detail. Also, it would be good to know if either of your Agencies commented during the public comment period.

Thanks for your attention in this matter and we look forward to talking to you.

Sincerely,

Scott Ireland

D. Scott Ireland

Chief, Section 1

NPDES Programs Branch

77 West Jackson Blvd., MC: WN-16J

Chicago, IL 60604

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[Ireland.Scott@epa.gov](mailto:Ireland.Scott@epa.gov)

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Alan C. Ellsworth  
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NPS - Water Resources Division  
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